

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings include changes to FIG. 1A, FIG. 1B, and FIG. 1C. This sheet, which includes FIG. 1A, FIG. 1B, and FIG. 1C replaces the original sheet including FIG. 1A, FIG. 1B, and FIG. 1C that were previously submitted.

Attachments: Replacement Sheet

Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

REMARKS

Applicants have received and carefully reviewed the Office Action mailed 01 November 2005. Claims 1-19 and claims 21-26 are rejected in this application.

Drawings

The drawings were objected to as not specifying FIG. 1A – FIG. 1C as “Prior Art”. Applicants have provided a replacement drawing page in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) herewith. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

§ 102 Rejections

Claims 1-4, 8, 9, 13, 17, 18 and 21-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by *Yamamoto* (US 6002460). Applicants disagree. *Yamamoto* fails to disclose all the elements of any of the claims of the present application.

With regard to claims 1-4, 8, 9, 13, 17, 18, and 21-26 *Yamamoto* fails to disclose that the polarization element and polarization rotator element form a **single film**. In contrast, *Yamamoto* discloses a polarizing plate that includes a liquid crystal layer disposed between two glass substrates. In the specification, the films of the present disclosure present various advantages not found in optical devices where the polarization element and polarization rotator element are not integrated into a single film, as described in prior responses.

The Examiner appears to recognize that *Yamamoto* discloses plates as opposed to single films. For example, the Examiner points to FIG.2 to as disclosing a liquid crystal cell. One of ordinary skill in the art would not consider the disclosure of *Yamamoto* polarizing plate with a liquid crystal cell disposed between two glass substrates as disclosing a single film. As previously stated, the presence of glass substrates is inconsistent with the general properties typically understood to accompany a single film.

Therefore, since *Yamamoto* fails to teach a polarization element and polarization rotator element forming a single film, as required by all the pending claims, Applicants submit that the pending claims are patentable over the cited reference and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

With regard to claim 8, *Yamamoto* additionally fails to disclose that the polarization element includes a surface that facilitates alignment of the polarization rotator element. In every embodiment of *Yamamoto*, a glass substrate is disposed between the polarization element and the polarization rotator element. Thus, the two surfaces do not come into contact. The Examiner cites column 5, lines 10-24 as providing this alignment surface. However, Applicants do not detect any disclosure in the cited reference that provides a polarization rotator element alignment surface on the polarization element.

Therefore, since *Yamamoto* additionally fails to teach a polarization rotator element alignment surface on the polarization element, as required by claim 8, Applicants submit that the claim 8 is further patentable over the cited reference and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

With regard to claim 13, *Yamamoto* additionally fails to disclose a reflective polarizer. The Examiner cites column 4, lines 10-11 as providing a reflective polarizer. However, this disclosure is directed to the glare-reducing surface of ITO particles disposed over the polarizer, not a reflective polarizer.

Therefore, since *Yamamoto* additionally fails to teach a reflective polarizer, as required by claim 13, Applicants submit that the claim 13 is further patentable over the cited reference and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

With regard to claim 18, *Yamamoto* additionally fails to disclose a retarder element. The Examiner fails to comment on this element. Therefore, since *Yamamoto* additionally fails to teach a retarder element, as required by claim 18, Applicants submit that the claim 18 is further patentable over the cited reference and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

With regard to claim 21, *Yamamoto* additionally fails to disclose a film having a polarization rotator element disposed between a liquid crystal cell and a light source. The Examiner correctly states that FIG. 2 shows a liquid crystal cell. However, the claimed liquid crystal cell is separate from the polarization rotator. FIG. 2 shows only one liquid crystal layer. Therefore, since *Yamamoto* additionally fails to teach a film having a polarization rotator element disposed between a liquid crystal cell and a light source, as required by claim 21, Applicants submit that the claim 21 is further patentable over the cited reference and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

§ 103 Rejections

Claims 5, 14, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over *Yamamoto* (US 6002460) in view of *Hansen* (US 5986730). Applicants disagree. *Hansen* fails to at least remedy the deficiencies of *Yamamoto* by not providing the missing claimed elements and/or by not providing the required motivation to modify *Yamamoto* to arrive at the claimed invention. Applicants submit that the claims 3, 14, and 15 are patentable over the cited reference and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 6, 7 and 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over *Yamamoto* (US 6002460) in view of *Shingaki* (EP 0487047). Applicants disagree. *Shingaki* fails to at least remedy the deficiencies of *Yamamoto* by not providing the missing claimed elements and/or by not providing the required motivation to modify *Yamamoto* to arrive at the claimed invention. Applicants submit that the claims 6, 7, and 10-12 are patentable over the cited reference and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 16 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over *Yamamoto* (US 6002460). *Yamamoto* fails to describe, at least, a single film as described above. In addition, *Yamamoto* fails to provide the required motivation to modify *Yamamoto* to arrive at the claimed single film. Applicants submit that the claims 16 and 19 are patentable over the cited reference and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

CONCLUSION

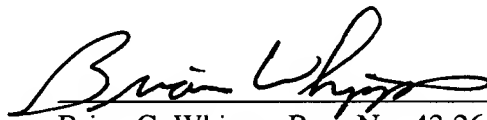
In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the claims. Prompt passage to issue is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner feel a telephone interview would be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact their representative at the number listed below.

Please continue to transmit all correspondence to:

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Respectfully Submitted,

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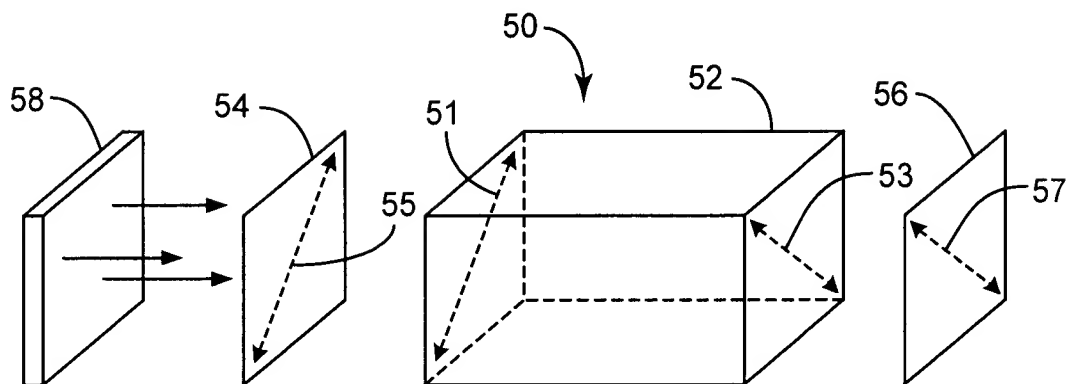


FIG. 1A
PRIOR ART

Added

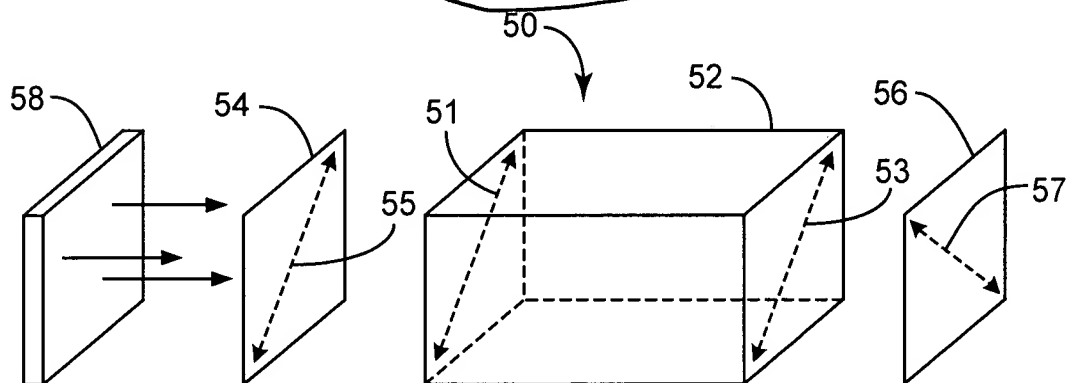


FIG. 1B
PRIOR ART

Added

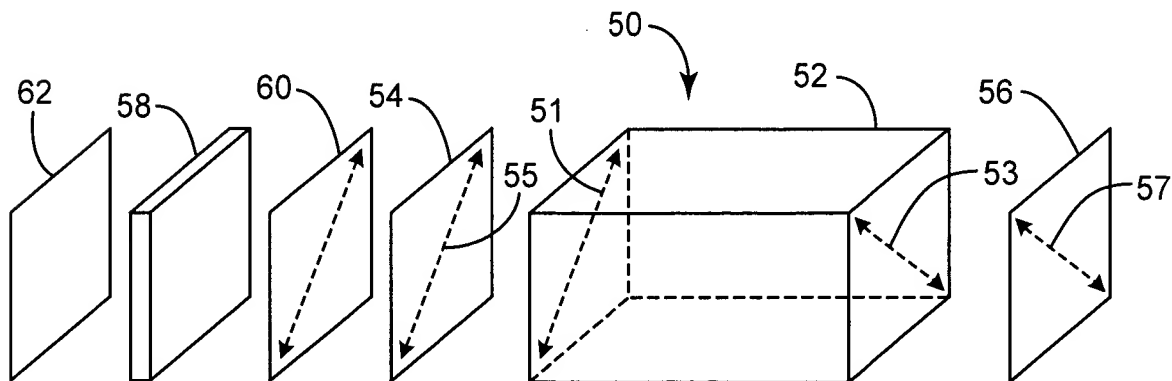


FIG. 1C
PRIOR ART

added